ಈ ರೀತಿ ಮೆರವಣಿಗೆಯು ವಿಧಾನಸಭಾ ಸಭಾಂಗಣದ ಕಡೆಗೆ ಆಗಮಿಸಿತು. ಸಭಾಸದನದ ದ್ವಾರದ ಬಳಿ ಮೆರವಣಿಗೆ ಬಂದ ಕೂಡಲೇ ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಆಗಮನವನ್ನು ಮಾರ್ಷಲ್‌ರವರು ಸಭೆಗೆ ತಿಳಿಸಿದರು ಮತ್ತು ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರಗೀತೆಯನ್ನು ನುಡಿಸಲಾಯಿತು. ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರು ಸದನವನ್ನು ಪ್ರವೇಶಿಸಿ ವೇದಿಕೆಯ ಮೇಲೆ ಕುಳಿತುಕೊಳ್ಳುವತನಕ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸದಸ್ಯರೆಲ್ಲರೂ ಎದ್ದು ನಿಂತುಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದರು.

ಸಭಾಸದನದ ವೇದಿಕೆಯ ಮುಂದೆ ಬಂದು ಬಳಿಕ ಮೆರವಣಿಗೆಯು ಎರಡು ಭಾಗವಾಗಿ ಬೇರ್ಪಟ್ಟಿತು. ವೇದಿಕೆ ಮೇಲೆ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಬಲಭಾಗದಲ್ಲಿಯೂ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸಭಾಪತಿಯವರು ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಎಡಭಾಗದಲ್ಲಿಯೂ ಕುಳಿತುಕೊಂಡರು. ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರು ವೇದಿಕೆಯ ಮಧ್ಯಭಾಗದಲ್ಲಿಯೂ ಕುಳಿತುಕೊಂಡರು. ಉಭಯ ಸದನಗಳ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಗಳು ವೇದಿಕೆಯ ಮುಂದಿರುವ ಆಸನದಲ್ಲಿ ಕುಳಿತುಕೊಂಡರು.

1. ವಿಧಾನ ಮಂಡಲದ ಉಭಯ ಸದನಗಳನ್ನುದ್ದೇಶಿಸಿ
ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರು ಮಾಡಿದ ಭಾಷಣ
ಘನತೆವೆತ್ತ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರಾದ ಶ್ರೀ ಹೆಚ್.ಆರ್. ಭಾರದ್ವಾಜ್‌ರವರು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವಿಧಾನಸಭೆ ಹಾಗೂ ವಿಧಾನ ಪರಿಷತ್ತಿನ ಸಂಯುಕ್ತ ಅಧಿವೇಶನವನ್ನುದ್ದೇಶಿಸಿ ವಿಧಾನಸಭೆಯ ಸಭಾಂಗಣದಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 25.02.2010 ರಂದು ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ 12.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಮಾಡಿದ ಭಾಷಣ.

Honourable Chairman, Honourable Speaker and Honourable Members,

1. It gives me great pleasure to welcome all of you to the joint session of the Karnataka Legislature. I deem it a privilege to have an opportunity to serve the people of Karnataka. During the last one year, my Government has been working tirelessly for the welfare of the citizens of Karnataka and we shall move ahead in the new year with a strong resolve of giving an even more responsive administration.

VISION 2020

2. After my Government assumed office, the Chief Minister chaired a Vision Group which articulated a Vision 2020 for Karnataka and identified 12 key areas for transformation. In addition, 15 Task Forces were constituted by the Government to work on various critical areas. Some of these task forces were headed by outstanding personalities like Prof.C.N.R. Rao, Dr. K. Kasturi Rangan, Mr.Kris Gopala Krishnan etc. The Task Forces have submitted their reports, which have been of immense value in designing appropriate policies and programmes to achieve all round development of the State. The Government has come out with several innovative policies like the new industrial policy, new textile policy, new tourism policy, new Semi-Conductor policy, new renewable energy policy, IT & BT policy, mining policy etc.

QUICK RESPONSE TO NATURAL CALAMITY

3. Due to unprecedented floods the State witnessed during October 2009, the damage caused to life and property in the 15 districts of the State was substantial. In the living memory, the State had not faced such a calamity. I am glad that swift action was taken by my Government to provide relief and succour to the affected people.

4. My Government undertook relief measures on a war-footing by opening 1715 relief camps. Over 7.65 lakh people were provided with food and temporary shelter in the relief camps. Owing to the sincere and unstinted efforts of my Government, there were no starvation deaths, no deaths due to lack of rescue efforts and no instances of epidemic in the affected areas. Water supply and power supply were expeditiously restored, minimising the suffering of the affected population. The total estimated damage was Rs.18,568 crore. A Memorandum, seeking financial assistance of Rs.7047 crore was submitted to Government of India. Without waiting for releases from the Central Government, my Government released Rs.1878 crore to the affected districts for extending relief for loss of life, cattle, crops, damages to houses and for providing infrastructure support. So far, more than Rs.1500 crore has been spent on this account. The task of distributing crop and house compensation have been completed in all the affected districts. The Government of India has subsequently released Rs.1457 crore under National Calamity & Contingency Fund (NCCF).

AASARE

5. There was an overwhelming response from the general public in the form of contributions to flood

relief fund. More than Rs.341 crore was received from the general public and others. Under the Aasare Scheme for construction of houses in the rehabilitation colonies, several corporate houses and charitable organizations have offered to help by building the houses themselves. 305 villages have been identified as prone to repeated damage on account of floods. Action is being taken to shift 149 villages fully and the balance partially, to safer places. Over 63,000 houses will be constructed by the donors at the rate of Rs.1 lakh per house on a 30 ft X 50 ft site. Infrastructure facilities like land, roads, drinking water, electricity and a school building will be provided by the Government in these villages.

INTER-STATE HARMONY – A NEW ERA

6. I am happy to state that a new era of harmony and goodwill between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu has begun. After decades of protracted dead-lock between the two States, the statue of the great poet, Thiruvalluvar has been installed in Bangalore and that of Maha Kavi Sarvajna was installed in Chennai. This measure has received widespread appreciation in both the States as well as across the Country.

PEACEFUL KARNATAKA

7. The law and order situation in the State during the last one year has been well under control. It is for the first time in 5 years that there has been no death on account of police firing during the last one year. Also, there is no terrorist strike during the year. The year 2009 also showed a vast improvement in the situation on the Naxal front. No civilian or policeman was killed by Naxals and no major law and order incidents involving naxalites were reported during the year. My Government has dealt with a heavy hand the forces who tend to disturb communal peace and harmony.

8. Naxals had given a poll boycott call in the four affected districts of Shimoga, Udupi, Chikmagalur and Dakshina Kannada before the last Lok Sabha Elections. Meticulous and large scale security arrangements were made in these areas. Consequently, the poll percentage was high and polls were conducted peacefully in these areas. It is equally pertinent to mention that 2009 Lok Sabha elections were among the most peaceful elections conducted in the State.

9. Many citizen centric steps have been taken in the last one year in the Police Department like introduction of a New Beat System; notice boards with telephone numbers of SHO, CI and DYSP for complaint redressal; a complaint receiving centre in every office of the District Superintendent of Police

and of the DCPs; a toll free number with round-the-clock service in the office of DG and IGP for the public to contact and report their grievances, etc.

REDRESSAL OF REGIONAL IMBALANCES

10. My Government is committed for overall development of the State and reduce regional imbalances in certain areas and to help development of backward taluks of the State economically, socially and educationally. For the implementation of Dr. Nanjundappa Committee Report, the Government has allocated Rs.2,578 crore under Special Development Plan. A High Power Committee was also constituted to oversee the implementation of the Special Development Plan for redressal of regional imbalances.

DISTRICT HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORTS

11. My Government, for the first time, has brought out District Level Human Development Reports for Bijapur, Gulbarga, Mysore and Udupi on a pilot basis. These Reports would enable setting up of bench marks and monitoring developmental indicators in an objective manner. Reports of 5 more districts are in the pipeline and the State proposed to bring out Human Development Reports of all Districts in a phased manner.

WELFARE OF FARMERS

12. My Government is committed to the welfare of farmers who are the backbone of the society and whose prosperity and well being is indispensable for the overall progress. During the current year, due to not too favourable seasonal conditions, against the target of 118 lakh tons of food production, 106 lakh tons is expected. Seeds have been distributed to the farming community at 50-75% subsidy during the last cropping seasons. Supply of fertilisers was closely monitored to ensure its availability. The State Government provided a Revolving Fund of Rs. 400 crore on soft terms to MARKFED. Utilizing this, fertilizer worth over Rs.950 crore were issued which greatly helped the farmers.

13. In order to encourage organic farming, the Government has constituted an Organic Farming Mission with budgetary support of Rs.100 crore in the current year. To start with, 52,000 farmers have enrolled by voluntarily paying Rs.250/- per head as membership fee. To begin with, over 71,000 hectares have been covered under this programme. This has substantially reduced the use of chemical fertilizer.

14. To enhance the crop yield levels in the dry land areas, the Government has launched the Bhoochethana programme. This involves the provision of ICRISAT technology, soil health cards, application of micro-nutrients and supply of inputs on time. So far, 2.84 lakh hectares across 32 talukas in 6 districts have been covered under the programme. This programme has been very successful and has registered increased yields, ranging between 32% and 40%. This programme will be scaled up across the State in a phased manner.

15. In order to ensure better coordination between agriculture, animal husbandry, horticulture, sericulture and allied activities, the State Government has constituted a Karnataka Krishi Mission. The Krishi Marata Vahini web site has also been launched for providing latest information to the farmers on the arrivals, prevailing prices, etc. of agricultural commodities in various markets of the State.

16. Horticulture activities in the State have been encouraged and there has been a good response to the activities under the National Horticulture Mission. Focus was given on the Micro Irrigation Scheme with the objective of better utilization of available water. During the current year, the

scheme has been implemented in all the districts of the State with a total provision of Rs.127 crore. The University of Horticultural Sciences, Bagalkot, which came into existence in 2008, is now actively engaged in a variety of horticultural related activities.

17. A subsidy of Rs.2 per litre has been continued as an incentive to farmers to increase milk production in the co-operative sector. An amount of Rs.200 crore has been released for this purpose which has contributed to making Karnataka the second largest milk procurer in the co-operative sector in the country and increased milk production by 4.5 lakh litres per day. To boost production and strengthen diary activities in North Karnataka, 122 new Milk Co-operative Societies have been established.

18. To provide proper impetus and remuneration to the grape growers and to increase employment opportunities, the Government has operationalised the Wine Policy of the State. Further, to enhance the productivity of horticultural farms, 19 of them are being planned to be developed in collaboration with other partners.

19. To make available good quality rice at cheaper rate to the general public and to control the inflationary trend in open market "Akki Santhes" have been

organised. My Government proposes to go ahead with a project of supplying bio-metric enabled devices at the point of sale with voice interface to make it a fool-proof system for supply of essential commodities under the PDS.

IMPROVED IRRIGATION MANAGEMENT

20. Steps have been taken for better utilization of Krishna and Cauvery River water by completing 14 lingering projects. Additional irrigation potential of 1.2 lakh hectares has been created under major and minor irrigation schemes. Field channel construction has been taken up in substantial areas. In addition, programme has been initiated to reclaim 2 lakh hectares of saline and water logged areas. Modernisation works of Tungabhadra, Bhadra and Kabini canals have saved 11 TMC of water, benefiting 20,000 hectares. Priority has been shifted from augmentation of storage to water management and development of integrated water resources management. Water users Co-operative societies have been strengthened to improve the efficiency of water use.

21. In order to give thrust for completion of irrigation projects in drought-prone regions of northern Karnataka, investment clearance of Planning Commission has been obtained in respect of 8 projects under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit

Programme (AIBP). We are expecting Rs.776 crore release under AIBP from Government of India by this financial year end.

TOWARDS BETTER GENERATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF POWER

22. My Government has taken several initiatives for the development of power projects to boost generation capacity. Acquisition of land has commenced for 4000 MW coal-fired project being set up by the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) at Kudagi in Bijapur District. KPCL, in collaboration with BHEL, has started work on 1600 MW project at Yeramaras and will soon commence the construction of 800 MW project at Yedlapur. Both these projects have got environmental clearance. The 2x600 MW Udupi Power Project is expected to be synchronized by middle of this year.

23. A mega infrastructure project with far-reaching impact on the State's energy scenario is the Gas Grid, being developed from Dabhol to Bangalore covering a distance of 740 kms by the Gas Authority of India (GAIL). GAIL has indicated that the Grid will be in place by 2012. We can expect to augment power by 7,900 MW by taking up 4 gas

based power projects in the private sector and one by KPCL at Bidadi.

24. Several important projects have been initiated by my Government in the Energy Sector to improve distribution. The Restructured Accelerated Power Development Reforms Programme in select 100 towns will strengthen the distribution systems. The implementation of the Niranthara Jyothi to provide 24-hour power supply to all non-agricultural rural customers and quality power to farmers will also address the concerns of the farmers for supply of quality power. Japan International Co-operation Agency assisted distribution automation system will reduce power supply interruption and to increase its reliability in Bangalore City. Rajiv Gandhi Grameena Vidyudikarana Yojane will provide electricity to all rural households by 2012 with free infrastructure to BPL families. The results of the implementation of these projects have been very encouraging.

25. To meet the immediate demand-supply gap and to ensure adequate power supply during the summer months, my Government is sparing no efforts to purchase power from other agencies.

GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL

26. The Programme of holding Hobli Level Janaspandana meetings has been very popular.

Owing to the redressal of grievances at Janaspandana meetings at Hobli/Village level there has been a significant reduction in the number of people approaching the authorities at State/District and Taluk Headquarters for redressal of their grievances. Since the inception of this programme, around 8.96 lakh grievances were received and attended to. Due to disposal of pending grievances, the number of grievances has been declining.

HEALTH FOR ALL

27. Providing good health services in the State is one of the priorities of my Government. "Health for all" is the motto of the Department. In order to provide good health services, especially to the poor, several proactive programmes have been formulated and are being implemented.

28. Under the Arogya Kavacha Scheme, free ambulance services are being provided in emergency cases relating to Medical, Police and Fire Services. 409 ambulances are in place, saving many lives. A total of 517 ambulances are likely to be in position by the end of February 2010.

29. My Government has launched the "Vajapayee Arogya Sri Yojana". In the first phase, 5 districts are covered with 14.5 lakh families below the poverty line. Under this scheme, 402 different

treatment procedures are covered and claims up to Rs. 2 lakh per year per family could be covered. It is proposed to extend the scheme in stages across the State.

30. To achieve the goal of reduction in Infant Mortality Rate and Maternal Mortality Rate as well as encouraging institutional deliveries, 24 X 7 services have been started in 974 PHCs by providing additional medical facilities including the required doctors and staff nurses.

31. Under Suvarna Arogya Chaitanya programme, School Children facing severe Medical problems are provided free medical services.

32. Effective implementation of several programmes has resulted in considerable improvement in the important health indicators. The Infant Mortality rate has decreased from 49 to 45, Maternal Mortality rate has decreased from 266 to 213 and Institutional Deliveries has increased from 60% to 80%

INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT

33. With a special focus on inclusive development, my Government has also given a very major thrust to programmes extending social security cover, indicating its determination to address the concerns of the poorest of the poor. A total of 42.56

lakh beneficiaries are being given assistance under various schemes as follows: Old Age Pension Scheme (8.34 lakhs), Sandhya Suraksha Scheme (10.35 lakhs), widow pension (10.12 lakhs), physically challenged (6.33 lakhs) and Bhagyalakshmi Scheme (7.42 lakhs).

34. Under the Supplementary Nutrition Programme (ICDS),, 43 lakh children, pregnant women and lactating mothers receive benefits addressing problems of mal-nutrition, anaemia, etc.

35. An additional 16 Morarji Desai Residential Schools are being set up in various parts of the State. Students belonging to Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, Backward Classes and Minorities are studying in these schools. 114 Kittur Rani Chennamma residential schools have been started exclusively for girls. 150 buildings are under construction in respect of Morarji Desai and Kittur Rani Chennamma residential schools.

36. Food charges for pre-matric and post-matric students staying in SC/ST and backward classes hostels have been increased to Rs.600 per month and Rs.650 per month, respectively. Similarly, food charges for students staying in Ashrama Shalas have been enhanced to Rs. 500 per month.

WELFARE OF MINORITIES

37. A Task Force has been set up to assess and monitor the development of Wakf properties. To make minorities economically self reliant and to improve their financial status, skill development training programmes like nursing, paramedical, Plastic Engineering and Training in Computers are being provided. Minority students appearing for public competitive examinations are being trained in reputed institutions. A sum of Rs.562 lakh has been sanctioned for construction of Community hall/Shadi Mahal for minorities. 69 Organizations have availed this facility.

HOUSING

38. During this year, Rajiv Gandhi Rural Housing Corporation Limited has constructed over 2.41 lakh houses under different schemes and has distributed 80,861 sites. The total expenditure this year so far has been Rs.1,017 crore.

DEVELOPMENT IN RURAL AREAS

39. My Government has accorded highest priority in implementing Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in the State. Considering the good performance of the State under the Scheme, Government of India has approved to enhance the annual allocation from Rs.1084 crore to Rs.2846 crore. I am happy to state

that Belgaum and Gulbarga Districts were given National Awards for excellence in implementation of this Scheme.

40. During the current year, 57.34 lakh households have been issued job cards and employment provided to 27.46 lakh households. Around 1,446 lakh person days of employment has been generated.

41. Under Pradhana Mantri Gram Sadak Yojane, during the current year, Rs.581 crore has been spent and 1714 km roads have been laid. In addition, another Rs.150 crore was spent from the State Government funds towards improving connectivity in rural areas.

42. In the current financial year, my Government has provided Rs.832 crore for rural water supply. I am happy to state that 245 Gram Panchayats in the State have been awarded Nirmal Gram Purskar, during the current year, by Government of India.

43. Under Suvarna Grama Scheme, 1204 villages in the first phase, 222 villages in the second phase and 1547 villages in the third phase have been selected throughout the State and are being developed.

SKILL ENHANCEMENT

44. A flagship programme of my Government has been to enhance skills and create jobs for the unemployed youth. So far 11 Mega Job & Skill Fairs and 30 District level Job Fairs have been organized by Karnataka Vocational & Skill Development Corporation. Since inception of this programme, skill training has been provided for 1.95 lakh persons and jobs facilitated for over 1.11 lakh persons.

45. During the currentyear, as a pilot project, Belgaum, Shimoga, Mysore, Dakshina Kannada, Bangalore Rural Districts have been selected for implementation of Rashtriya Swastha Bima Yojana Scheme. 36 Government ITIs were upgraded into Centres of Excellence under Government of India funded scheme. 74 ITIs are taken up for Modernization under Public Private Partnership.

HIGHER EDUCATION

46. My Government has already set up a University for Music and Performing Arts. It is also proposed to restructure the Mysore University and the Karnataka University as Model Universities. Towards this end, the Karnataka Knowledge Commission, with support of an Expert Group consisting of Dr. Kasturirangan, Dr. Govardhan Mehta, Dr. Balaram, Prof. Madhav Menon and

Dr. Ramarao, has made a set of recommendations. The Government will be taking necessary steps to restructure these Universities. A common calendar has also been prescribed in order to streamline the admissions, examinations and announcement of results across different Universities in the State.

KANNADA & CULTURE

47. My Government is keen to recognise and promote cultural and literary traditions of its people. In this direction, for the first time, the birth anniversary of the great saint Kanakadasa was celebrated all over the State and also was declared as a public holiday in his honour.

48. In our continuing effort to promote kannada literature, Rs.3.42 crore has been given to the Kannada Sahitya Parishat for their activities. Separate assistance of Rs.1.5 crore is also provided for conducting All India Kannada Sahitya Sammelana at Gadag in the month of February 2010.

49. The State has taken initiative to develop birth places and memorials of several well known personalities like Sawai Gandharva, Mallikarjun Mansur, Basavaraja Rajaguru and Bettageri Krishnasharma. Similarly, financial assistance for construction of memorials of freedom fighters from

the State viz. Kittur Rani Chennamma, Sangolli Rayanna, Mylara Mahadevappa, Gangadhar Deshpande, Hardekar Manjappa and others was provided.

50. A memorial, in honour of the well known film personality Dr. Vishnuvardhan, who passed away recently, is proposed to be built at a cost of Rs.10 crore in Bangalore.

OPPORTUNITIES IN TOURISM

51. My Government has introduced a new Tourism Policy (2009-14) to give a fillip to the tourism activities and to utilise the enormous potential in the State. This is expected to bring in an investment of Rs.25,000 crore over the next 10 years and to make Karnataka a leading tourist destination.

52. Karnataka is the proud inheritor of the legacy of the Vijayanagar dynasty, which has enriched the cultural traditions of the State. The 500th year of coronation of the legendary Sri Krishnadevaraya was celebrated in a befitting manner at Hampi to commemorate his contributions in the field of art, architecture and culture. The festival at Hampi was attended by 20 lakh people, including children, spread over 3 days. This event is also expected to give a boost to heritage tourism in the State.

53. My Government has taken measures to create international standard tourist facilities in major destinations of the State, such as Belur, Hampi, Pattadakal, Bijapur, Mangalore etc. Five-year Integrated Master Degree in Tourism Administration Courses has been started in five colleges of the State. To develop diversified and sustainable activities in tourism, it is proposed to develop Heli Tourism and Wellness Tourism.

INDUSTRIAL GROWTH

54. My Government has brought out a New Industrial Policy, 2009-14 w.e.f. 1.4.2009. Apart from regular incentives, new incentives like Interest free loan on VAT, Anchor unit subsidy, Interest Subsidy, Incentives for Energy and Water Conservation have been introduced.

55. During the current year, my Government approved proposals of 76 Large & Mega industries with an investment of Rs.1.95 lakh crore and employment potential of 3.20 lakh.

56. My Government is focussing on development of industrial corridors and linking them with core sectors like steel, cement, textiles, IT, BT, automobiles, pharmaceuticals etc. We are also giving additional incentives in backward districts. It has been welcomed by industry and appreciated as a very progressive industry-friendly step.

57. It is proposed to conduct Global Investors Meet on 3rd and 4th June 2010 with the objective of

attracting more investment and creating additional employment opportunities in the State.

58. In order to take IT to rural areas, my Government had announced setting up of Rural BPOs last year. I am happy to inform you that there has been an overwhelming response to the scheme. My Government has initiated an integrated IT city based on Government of India guidelines, for setting up of IT Investment Region. The first such integrated Satellite Township is proposed to be set up in 40 Sq.Km. area near Bangalore International Airport.

59. It is also decided to set up sector-specific BT Parks in Mysore, Mangalore, Dharwad and Bidar. My Government has recently announced a Semi-Conductor policy, the first such initiative in the country, which has been lauded by the industry.

STRESS ON INFRASTRUCTURE

60. The work on expansion of Airport at Mysore is completed and awaiting commencement of commercial operations. Airports at Shimoga, Gulbarga, Bijapur and Hassan are being developed on PPP basis through private promoters. The existing airport at Hubli is being upgraded to international standards and land required for the expansion is being acquired. Additional lands

required for development of Mangalore and Belgaum airports are being acquired. It is also proposed to develop 11 airstrips in Davangere, Raichur, Chikmagalur, Udupi, Kushalnagar, Gokarna, Chitradurga, Bagalkot, Haveri, Gadag and Kollegal. Minor ports at Haladipur (on Swiss Challenge Mode) and Tadri (on PPP mode) are proposed to be taken up.

61. My Government is committed to the speedy completion of rail projects of Karnataka. For the first time, the State Government has offered to bear 50% of the project cost of new projects and also bear the cost of land acquisition. The State Government has urged the Union Railway Ministry to take up new projects on the PPP mode. During the current year, approval has been accorded for taking up 23 RoB/RuB in the State. Gadag-Sholapur railway line has since been completed and opened to traffic. Bangalore - Ramanagara railway track doubling has been completed. The work on Ramanagara-Mysore stretch is under progress. Similarly, Shimoga-Talaguppa gauge conversion project is under completion and expected to be opened shortly.

62. Quality road network is important for the overall development and the State Government has incurred an expenditure of Rs.739 crore till date.

Under Central Road Fund, 950 works have been sanctioned and 1,668 Kms have been developed, with an expenditure of Rs.260 crore. The World Bank has recently given their no objection for tendering for the first set of roads being taken up under the Karnataka State Highway Improvement Project – 2. Under the KSHIP-2, a total of 826 KMs will be upgraded at an estimated cost of Rs.1650 crore.

URBAN DEVELOPMENT

63. The physical progress of the Bangalore Metro when my Government took over was 0.1% and now stands at 22.4%. The construction of 1st phase of Bangalore Metro is in full swing. Work from Byappanahalli to M.G.Road is progressing rapidly with 70% of the works completed and scheduled to commence operations by December 2010. My Government will ensure that the entire Metro project of all reaches will be commissioned by March 2013.

64. My Government has accorded high priority to the development of Bangalore City. The expected expenditure on works by BBMP in 2009-10 is around Rs.3100 crore as against a mere Rs.1035 crore in 2005-06. Similarly, the development expenditure by BDA in 2009-10 is expected to be around Rs.873 crore as against only Rs.145 crore

in 2005-06. The Government has given approval for 12 signal-free corridors in the newly added zones of BBMP, by upgrading arterial and sub-arterial roads.

65. To meet the ever-growing housing needs of the people in Bangalore city, 5 new residential layouts are proposed to be developed. The final notification for acquisition of land for Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout has been issued. In respect of Dr. Shivarama Karanth Layout, preliminary notification has already been issued and enquiry is on. Preliminary notifications for Sri K.C.Reddy Layout, Sri Devaraj Urs Layout and Sri Nijalingappa layouts will be issued shortly. All these layouts will result in the distribution of 1.74 lakh house sites by BDA.

66. Many new initiatives in urban local bodies have made the life of the common man easy and hassle free like the GIS based property tax system, accrual based accounting system, computerisation of birth and death registration, etc.

67. For the first time in the Country, my Government has initiated GIS based property assessment programme in 5 cities on a PPP mode. This would enable registration of all properties and facilitate the property owners to get a clear property title. In

a phased manner, this programme will be scaled up to other cities of the State.

PROTECTING GOVERNMENT LAND

68. A Task Force has been constituted for implementing the recommendations of the Joint Legislature Committee on unauthorised encroachment of Government lands. The Task Force has so far identified 7.39 lakh acres of Government land under encroachment throughout the State. My Government is committed to taking all possible steps to protect Government property.

e-GOVERNANCE INITIATIVES

69. My Government has been initiating e-Governance programmes on a large scale. Several steps have been taken to deliver electronically more services to the citizens in urban and rural areas. Apart from 60 centres of Bangalore - One operating in the City, 20 Karnataka - One Centres will be operational in other District headquarters by end of March 2010. This programme will be scaled up in phases across the State. The Karnataka State Wide Area Network has been commissioned. The value of works tendered through the e-Procurement mode has increased to Rs.20,000 crore. The other initiatives in e-Governance taken by the Government like Sachivalaya Vahini, new data centre, State Citizen

Portal, common service centres at Gram Panchayat level etc. will further enhance electronic delivery of citizen services.

70. An initiative which involves setting up a Call Centre to receive requests on Right to Information, is receiving serious attention. The Call Centre will handle requests of the citizens for information and filing of applications under the RTI Act. This computerised manned facilitation centre with a 24/7 helpline will go a long way in creating an enabling environment in Government's delivery system for better governance.

OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS

71. My Government is making efforts to ensure expeditious disposal of long pending cases. To speed up filing of replies and appeal cases in the judicial fora, there is a proposal to create legal cells in all district headquarters by appointing retired judicial officers on contract basis.

72. Action has been taken to issue Driving License and Motor Vehicle Registration through Smart Cards. All the offices of the Transport Department are now computerised to provide better services. In order to improve transport facilities to the travelling public, 2,084 new buses have been purchased. BMTC has introduced 25 "Atal Sarige" buses at concessional

fares to help the commuters from the poorer sections of the society.

FISCAL MANAGEMENT

73. In recent years, Karnataka State has earned a reputation for being disciplined in its fiscal management. Despite increasing levels of expenditure on various schemes, my Government has maintained the record of achieving a revenue surplus every year. The State has also contained its fiscal deficit within the limits stipulated in the Karnataka Fiscal Responsibility Act. My Government will endeavour to keep up this record during the coming years also and to ensure availability of capital investment on a sustained basis.

74. My Government seeks the cooperation of all legislators in the implementation of all developmental programmes. I am confident that you will extend your support, for the overall progress and prosperity of Karnataka. I wish you all success in this endeavour.

JAI HIND
JAI KARNATAKA

(ಸದನವು ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ 12 ಗಂಟೆ 55 ನಿಮಿಷಕ್ಕೆ ಮುಂದೂಡಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು ಪುನಃ 15 ನಿಮಿಷಗಳ ನಂತರ ಸೇರಲು ನಿಃಶ್ಚಿಯಿಸಿತು)